



Rep. Hudson to speak at Healthcare Town Hall Meeting in Naples and live on the Internet

Naples, FL – September 2, 2009 – As congress reconvenes, the healthcare debate will start anew in Washington D.C. Florida residents can take the discussion to the next level by participating in a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00pm.

This Town Hall Meeting will embrace technology to engage residents across the state of Florida in the discussion. Residents can participate by attending one of five in person events in Naples (Collier County) and Pembroke Pines (Broward County), watching the town hall on live video at www.NaplesNews.com, or ask questions directly to panelists via Twitter at <http://twitter.com/tweettownhall>.

“This is one of the most important Public Policy discussions of our lifetime. I believe that this format will provide for more participation from a wider spectrum of the community. This Meeting is not a venue to advocate but a venue to educate with a goal that **Real People**, in **Real Time**, can help shape **Real Policy**,” stated Representative Matt Hudson.

Town Hall Panelists will include:

Representative Matt Hudson who represents District 101 which spans the state from I-75 in Collier County across to Pembroke Pines on the east coast. Hudson serves as Vice-Chair to the Health and Family Services Policy Council. He also

serves on the Select Policy Council on Strategic & Economic Planning, Health Care Regulation Policy Committee, Health Care Appropriation Committee, Economic Development Policy Committee, The Energy and Utility Policy Committee, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight. Currently he serves as Chairman of the Collier County Legislative Delegation.

Dr. Allen Weiss is the President and CEO of the NCH Healthcare System. He is responsible for a 681 bed, two-hospital integrated health care system in Naples, Florida. NCH has been ranked in the top 5% of all hospitals by HealthGrades for the past four years. Additionally, NCH was named #1 in the state for cardiology and cardiac care and is the busiest hip and knee replacement hospital in Florida and the second busiest in the nation for Medicare patients. In July 2005, Dr. Weiss had the honor of expressing his views with the U.S. House Ways and Means Health Subsection concerning the use of information technology in health care.

Joseph Gauta, MD is a board certified gynecologist in Naples, FL. He has been practicing in Naples since 1998 and founded Especially for Women in 2000 and the Florida Bladder Institute in 2006. Dr. Gauta has been actively involved in the political welfare of the patients and doctors of Florida. He is the President of the Collier County Medical Association. He was on the Board of Governors of the Florida Medical Association, currently a member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Medical Association Political Action Committee, and on the Board of Leadership Collier. He is also past-President of the Southwest Florida Physicians Association, a 600 member organization of physicians in our local PHO. Lastly, he is a Board member of Ava Healthcare, Inc, a recently launched health insurer in the state of Florida.

Panel Moderator

Michael V. Reagan, Ph.D., President & CEO was named The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce President and CEO in 2002, Mike's extensive career has included key executive positions in metropolitan development, higher education and state government where he was a cabinet officer for three state Governors.

Active in local affairs, Mike advises the Leadership Collier Foundation, the Council for International Visitors, the Civic Information Center, and the Naples

Press Club. A member of the Collier Athletic Club, the One Hundred Club and the World Affairs Council, he serves on several local advisory boards. In 2006, he received The World Food Prize's Iowa Founders Award.

Twitter participation will be moderated by

Cyndee Woolley, APR (@cmwooll) and

Marc Meyer (@marc_meyer).

How can you participate?

For more information or to set up an off-site watch party contact Sheila Jackson at (239) 417-6270 or Sheila.Jackson@MyFloridaHouse.gov

Visit www.TweetTownHall.com to view the current proposals

Please plan on participating in our panel discussion:

In Person:

Date: September 9th

Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Primary Location: Naples Daily News Community Room

(1100 Immokalee Road, Naples, FL)

Live Online:

Date: September 9th

Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Tweet your questions live to <http://twitter.com/tweettownhall>

View the discussion live on www.NaplesNews.com

Additional events will be held at:

Florida Gulf Coast University

Edison State College

Hodges University

Broward College

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